

BLAKE SHELTON HITS BACK AT TABLOIDS WITH LAWSUIT

**2015 HOLIDAY
GIFT GUIDE**
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OUR LIST!

NASH Country Weekly

COUNTRY FOR LIFE | NOVEMBER 23, 2015

**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW**

COMIN' ON STRONG

CHRIS YOUNG

packs sex appeal,
heartache and
romance into
new music

PLUS!

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FEATURING
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'Heart Throb'
Style DI7445

1960 WEDNESDAY,
NOV. 16



Patsy Cuts a Classic

Record producer Owen Bradley had the perfect song in mind for **PATSY CLINE**, a heartbreaker

called "I Fall to Pieces," written by Harlan Howard and Hank Cochran. Patsy, however, didn't exactly share his enthusiasm. She reportedly hated the tune but eventually agreed to record it. But the fireworks didn't end there. The day of the recording on Nov. 16, 1960, a fairly heated argument broke out between the feisty singer and Owen. The producer had worked up a lush, somewhat subtle arrangement for the song, which Patsy did not care for. But she ultimately relented. In the book *I Fall to Pieces: The Music and the Life of Patsy Cline*, Ray Walker of The Jordanaires, who backed Patsy on the song, recalled, "Patsy was scared. She had never sung a song like 'I Fall to Pieces' before, and she didn't consider herself that kind of singer." It took a few tries, but Patsy finally nailed it to everyone's satisfaction. "I Fall to Pieces" was released in 1961 and became Patsy's first No. 1 single that same year.

2015

NOV. 17: DIAMOND DAY



DIAMOND RIO will sign copies of their new album, *I Made It*, following the group's appearance on

the Grand Ole Opry at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. Also on the bill with the award-winning band are **LARRY GATLIN & THE GATLIN BROTHERS**, **KRISTIAN BUSH**, **LORRIE MORGAN** and other guests.

NOV. 17: CHRISTMAS WITH THE OAKS

THE OAK RIDGE BOYS celebrate the holiday season with their 26th annual Christmas Night Out Tour, which kicks off on Nov. 17 at The Oak Ridge Boys Theatre in Branson, Mo. Fans can expect seasonal favorites like "White Christmas" along with more recent holiday fare and religious-themed songs.



NOV. 22: FAN FAVES LUKE BRYAN, CARRIE UNDERWOOD and MIRANDA LAMBERT

are among the top nominees in the fan-voted American Music Awards, airing Nov. 22 on ABC at 8 p.m. ET. Carrie is also set to perform on the telecast.



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CHRIS YOUNG has become more comfortable writing about his personal life, as evidenced by his latest album, *I'm Comin' Over*. Chris also gets a little help from friends Vince Gill and Cassadee Pope on the new record.

PLUS!

**NASH
NEXT**

27 JOE NICHOLS

His attitude toward life in general can be summed up in his new single, "Freaks Like Me," a tune about having pride in yourself. There are more messages to come, Joe promises, in his upcoming new album, slated for 2016.



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FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Chris Young is a constant presence in our Hottest Bachelor and Sexiest Man polls, always placing in the Top 5. So, we know he has the looks, and we know he has the voice—that's evident in his songs—but with his new project, *I'm Comin' Over*, Chris shows a different side: his producer side. We decided to strike up a conversation with Chris at a chic Nashville hot spot—complete with a bowling alley. In that lighthearted

atmosphere, he took us on the journey he started almost 10 years ago.

In this week's Nash Next section, we catch up with Joe Nichols, who talks about his almost 20 years in the business, his latest single, "Freaks Like Me," and his upcoming new album.

Also, don't miss out on a great subscription deal we are offering: to get *Nash Country Weekly* delivered right to your mailbox, go ahead and subscribe, or renew, at countryweekly.com and get a 1-year subscription for only \$49.97 or a 6-month subscription for \$39.97.

Pick up the next issue, on stands Nov. 23, when we bring you all the highlights from the 2015 CMA Awards.

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

LISA KONICKI, EDITOR IN CHIEF

FROM THE READER



Shoot us an email, a comment or a tweet and let us know what you think!

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Please include your name, address and daytime phone number with all correspondence. Nash Country Weekly assumes no responsibility for returning unsolicited material, including, but not limited to, photographs, artwork, manuscripts and letters. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

STAND BY YOUR PRODUCER

What a great article on the legendary producer Billy Sherrill [Sept. 7]. While I enjoy reading about artists, it's also refreshing to learn more about the many people behind the scenes in country music. Billy Sherrill is a Nashville legend, having worked with some of the greatest artists of our time. There may have never been a Tammy Wynette without Billy. Thank you!

TODD STEELE

Tamworth, Ontario

TONS OF FUN

I was impressed by your song choices about labor ["Take This Job," Sept. 7]. I was elated by the choice of Tennessee Ernie Ford's song "16 Tons." I was 7 years old when that song was popular, and I used to walk back and forth to school singing the song. Of course, I had no idea what a "company store" was at that time in my life. All I know is that at that time it was a catchy tune that was easy to remember. So thanks for the pleasant memory, NCW.

PAUL ROMANO SR. | Philadelphia

TWITTER

@parmalee My fave guys—they are sweet, talented and put on a hell of a show. If you get a chance, read @countryweekly Oct. 19.

TJOHANEK | @JohanekTerri

Scotty McCreery is dang HOT. #justsayin
VICKIE ROSE | @veryrose15

Yes, indeed, the voters got it right, @ScottyMcCreery is country's "sexiest" man @countryweekly... he's HOT!!

LIZZIE MAT | @LMatjeka

@countryweekly @OldDominion You couldn't have chosen a better band to highlight. Their new album is fantastic.
DUNCAN MCGINELY | @duncanmcginely

@Lauren_Alaina Such a great representative of young female country artists today! Love that she set the tone 4 the day!
BONNIE MADDUX | @BonnieMaddux

FACEBOOK

I just cannot believe that Garth Brooks is in the running for Entertainer of the Year and there has been nothing about him. Then there is George Strait and all he has done. He is overlooked again with all the hits he has and all his shows that sell out in a matter of minutes when they are announced.

DONNA DOWNS-LOGAN

Couldn't they have just let an artist like [Chris] Stapleton perform on his own and get exposure? Why the need to shoehorn pop stars [like Justin Timberlake] into these shows?

MATTHEW CAPUTO

Why do we need these Hollywood people in our country music night? We don't want to see them or hear them.

DONNA DOWNS-LOGAN

Don't know much about this couple [Joey+Rory] other than them being country singers, but this story on cancer hits close to home. Choked up on the words of Rory.

EMMA VALDEZ

The Blakester! Total awesomeness! Finally some country music and an actual Western [The Ridiculous 6]! Won't be no pop 'n' rap in this flick! Yeehaw!

BILL RICHARDSON



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FIRST TAKE

THE OUTSIDER AND THE RIDER

Eric Church (left) joins rock legend Gregg Allman onstage at Los Angeles' Skirball Cultural Center for a one-of-a-kind rendition of "Midnight Rider." The performance, a career highlight for Eric, took place at the Grammy Foundation's Living Histories event, held in late September.





THE COUNTRY BREW

A SWEET TASTE OF COUNTRY

Opening Act



BEACH BUMPIN'

As the weather begins to cool this fall, here's a warm thought: **BLAKE SHELTON**, **TIM MCGRAW** and **DIERKS BENTLEY** will headline Tortuga Music Festival on the sands of Fort Lauderdale Beach Park in Florida, April 15-17. Joining the headliners during the three-day festival is an all-star cast that includes Sam Hunt, Kip Moore, Billy Currington, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Randy Houser, Joe Nichols, Chris Janson, A Thousand Horses and other acts.



Blake by Terry Wyatt/Getty Images; festival photo courtesy Tortuga Music Festival



(Above) **RAYNA-SHINE** Nashville's Connie Britton not only lights up American TV screens every Wednesday night as Rayna James, she recently switched on the Empire State Building's lights to celebrate the Global Citizens Festival, an NYC music fest supporting U.N. social goals; (below) **HOW HE ROLLS** Brian Kelley shouts out to Kawasaki USA, the maker of his shiny red Teryx UTV, via Instagram.



(Below) **SINBAD GOOD** Jennifer Nettles gets cozy with comedian Sinbad, whom she joined onstage in October at an entertainment industry conference in Nashville; (bottom) **XXX's AND OOO's** Those letters also double as offense and defense denoters, as any football fan knows, but Trisha Yearwood, seen here at a Vince Lombardi exhibit at the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, is clearly affectionate about the sport.





(Left) **THE OAKS AND THE WILLOW** Taylor Swift received some VIP visitors at her Arlington, Texas, show, as newly inducted Country Music Hall of Famers The Oak Ridge Boys turned up backstage; (above) **FAMILY MEN** Craig Campbell (left) and Love & Theft's Stephen Barker Liles might just be comparing notes about fatherhood en route to a Seattle performance.



STYLE WITH A SMILE Carrie Underwood (right) joins (from left) Heidi Klum, Nina Garcia and Zac Posen, who gathered to tape the Season 14 finale of Lifetime's *Project Runway* during New York City's semi-annual Fashion Week event in September.



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A HALL OF A NIGHT

In what could've been a CMA Awards warm-up, a stellar, multigenerational cast of country stars gathered at the Country Music Hall of Fame on Oct. 25 for the annual Hall of Famer Reunion and Medallion Ceremony honoring the HoF's newest inductees—Jim Ed Brown and the Browns, The Oak Ridge Boys and guitarist Grady Martin. (Jim Ed and Grady were inducted posthumously.) Here, inductees and honored guests join in the evening's finale, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken." From the looks of this scene, it will, indeed.



**Brenda Lee with
Grady Martin's
son Joshua**



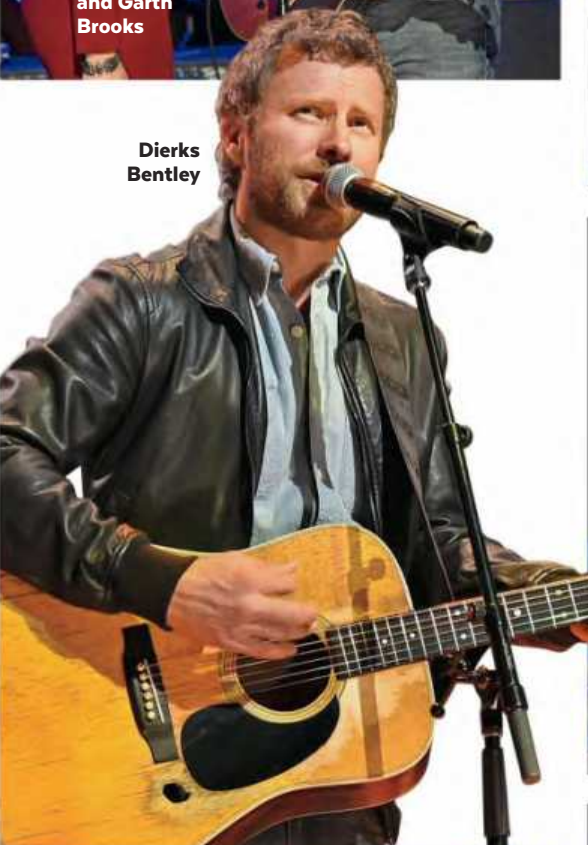
**Bobby Bare, Bon-
nie Brown (center)
and Becky Brown
(wife of the late
Jim Ed Brown)**



**Sharon White
and husband
Ricky Skaggs**



**Trisha
Yearwood
and Garth
Brooks**



**Dierks
Bentley**



**Legendary
“twangy” guitarist
Duane Eddy with
Mandy Barnett**



**(From left) Mar-
ty Stuart, Vince
Gill and Chris
Scruggs**



Buddy Miller



**BMI's Jody Williams (left) with
The Oak Ridge Boys and Kenny
Rogers (third from right)**

Dierks and Joe, Brenda & Vince by John Shearer/Getty Images; all other photos by Rick Diamond/Getty Images

MIDAS TOUCH

BLAKE SHELTON is suing the tabloid magazine *In Touch Weekly* for its claim that his heavy drinking led to his divorce from Miranda Lambert. Blake is seeking damages of more than \$1 million in a defamation lawsuit filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court. According to Blake's lawyers, the tabloid magazine has repeatedly published false information about the singer, including a cover story that stated: "Rehab for Blake: He finally hits rock bottom." In addition to monetary damages, Blake is seeking an injunction that would prevent *In Touch* from repeating allegations in the disputed story.



GIFT OF LIFE

The **COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION** recently donated \$3 million to Vanderbilt's Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital. The funds are earmarked for the construction of four new floors, which will house critically ill and injured children at the hospital. Lady Antebellum's **HILLARY SCOTT** helped make the presentation, while Kix Brooks, a CMA board member and a Children's Hospital advisory board

member, emceed the presentation, saying, "Country music is a format known for telling stories. Now the country music community will be known for building them. When you see the courage of a child or the face of a parent, you know how important it is for our industry to support the ongoing growth of Children's Hospital and why it is life changing."



MY STARS AND GARTERS!

They just don't get any sweeter or any more Southern than Little Big Town's **KIMBERLY SCHLAPMAN**. The sweet soprano in the quartet, as well as the culinary mastermind behind The Cooking Channel show *Simply Southern*, Kimberly has added her flair for all things gracious and genteel in her new line of Oh Gussie home goods. Available at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, the line includes beautiful dishes and glassware, fun magnets, retro aprons, pottery designed by her father and even a doll inspired by daughter Daisy—all great for Christmas gift-giving. Oh Gussie is available now.



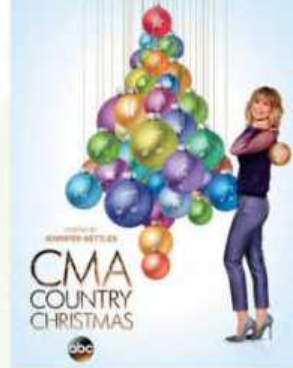
NEWS *of* NOTE

RECOVERING

BILL ANDERSON underwent two cataract surgeries in October and is continuing the recovery process. The longtime Grand Ole Opry member had surgery on his right eye Oct. 13, with a procedure on the left eye approximately a week later.



The sixth annual CMA Country Christmas TV special will air Thursday night, Dec. 3, on ABC at 9 p.m. ET. **JENNIFER NETTLES** hosts the show, which was taped at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville.



TV NEWS

Actress **JOEY LAUREN ADAMS** has been added to the cast of the upcoming CMT comedy series *Still the King*, starring **BILLY RAY CYRUS**. Her credits include roles in *Dazed and Confused* and *Chasing Amy*. The scripted series is set to premiere in early 2016.



BABY NEWS

Singer/songwriter **KRYSTAL KEITH** and husband **ANDREW SANDUBRAE** welcomed their first child into their home last month. Baby girl Hensley Jack arrived on October 19 and weighed in at a petite 6 lbs., 11 oz. This is the third grandbaby for country star and grandpop Toby Keith. His daughter Shelley has two babies—a daughter and a son.

BRYAN SOME TIME

While the North American continent battles whatever misery El Niño will bring to us

this winter, **LUKE BRYAN** will be doing his part to thaw the ice on his Kill the Lights Tour in 2016. Launching Feb. 18 at the Ford Center in Evansville, Ind., the tour has dates scheduled in arenas and domes through May and will include guests Little Big Town and Dustin Lynch. Luke's 2015 Kick the Dust Up Tour took the superstar entertainer to a series of sold-out stadiums, and his annual Farm Tour brought 110,000 fans to seven cities.

KILL THE LIGHTS TOUR FIRST LEG

2-18
Evansville, Ind.
Ford Center

2-19
Peoria, Ill.
Peoria Civic Center Arena

2-20
Cedar Falls, Iowa
UNI Dome

2-25
Montreal, Quebec
Bell Centre

2-26
Uncasville, Conn.
Mohegan Sun Arena *

2-27
Uncasville, Conn.
Mohegan Sun Arena *

3-8
Las Cruces, N.M.
Pan American Center

3-11
Little Rock, Ark.
Verizon Arena *

3-12
Bossier City, La.
CenturyLink Center *

4-7
Charleston, W.Va.
Charleston Civic Center Coliseum

4-8
Baltimore
Royal Farms Arena

4-9
Syracuse, N.Y.
Carrier Dome

4-14
Toledo, Ohio
The Huntington Center

4-15
State College, Pa.
Bryce Jordan Center

4-16
Charlottesville, Va.
John Paul Jones Arena

4-21
Missoula, Mont.
Adams Center

4-22
Bozeman, Mont.
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

4-29
Concord, Calif.
Concord Pavilion

4-30
Fresno, Calif.
Save Mart Center

5-12
Omaha, Neb.
CenturyLink Center

5-13
Wichita, Kan.
INTRUST Bank Arena

5-14
Oklahoma City
Chesapeake Energy Arena

* No Little Big Town



LEANN HONORS VETS

LeANN RIMES will make some veteran's holiday a little happier. She has paired up with DAV—Disabled American Veterans to give deserving vets at 12 holiday tour stops a surprise with VIP tickets to a concert, a face-to-face thank-you from LeAnn onstage and a special holiday gift. In addition, she has recorded a version of Kenny Loggins' "Celebrate Me Home" with Gavin DeGraw, and the song's music video will include vignettes from actual military homecomings . . . because there's no place like home for the holidays.



WHISTLIN' DIXIE

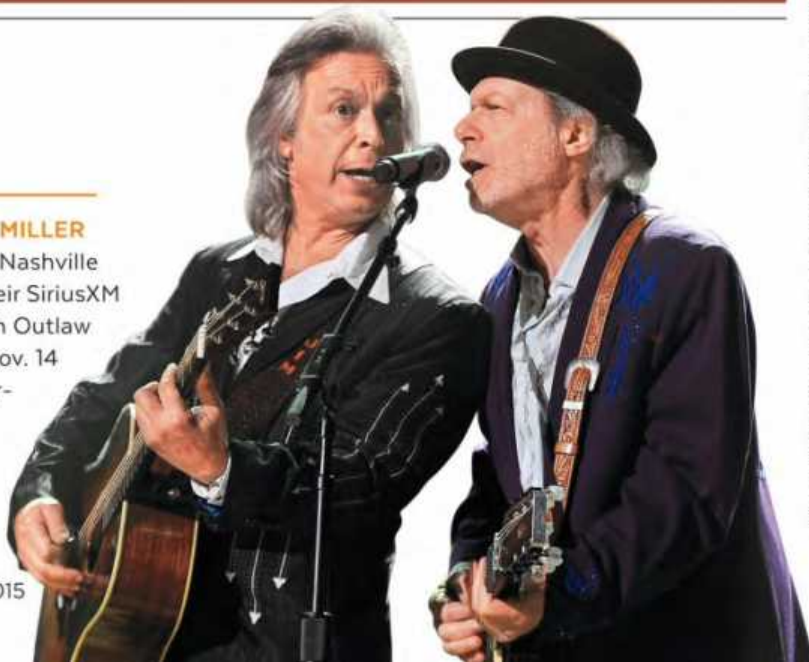
One of country music's pioneering females, **DIXIE HALL**, will be posthumously honored at the ninth annual Louise Scruggs Memorial Forum on Nov. 18 in the Country Music Hall of

Fame and Museum's Ford Theater. Dixie was a noted bluegrass musician, songwriter, journalist and record label boss, in addition to being the loving wife of Tom T. Hall. She died in February 2015.

Guests at the Forum will include Sierra Hull, Rita Forrester, Carl Jackson, Chris Jones and Heather Berry-Mabe. The program, established in 2007 to honor individuals who represent the legacy of agent-manager Louise Scruggs, is free and open to the public.

FRIENDLY OUTINGS

Good buddies **JIM LAUDERDALE** and **BUDDY MILLER** have committed to a concert series at popular Nashville venue City Winery. It will be an extension of their SiriusXM program, *The Buddy & Jim Show*, which airs on Outlaw Country. The live shows at City Winery begin Nov. 14 and will feature both chats with guests and performances in front of the audience. Swamp-rock legend Tony Joe White is the first guest. Additional shows will be broadcast Jan. 14, Feb. 25, April 7 and May 26.



BREAKFAST CLUB

KEITH URBAN NO. 1 PARTY
ROSEWALL | NASHVILLE OCT. 21



(From left) Shane McAnally, Keith, Josh Osborne, Ross Copperman

KEITH URBAN got a warm day off to a hot start with an early morning breakfast bash to celebrate his latest No. 1 single, “John Cougar, John Deere, John 3:16.” Joining Keith on the big day were the song’s co-writers, Shane McAnally, Ross Copperman and Josh Osborne, along with producer Dann Huff.

Before the party got underway, Keith told members of the media that he loved the song immediately after Shane emailed it to him. “It was a great song—it was solid, great melody,” Keith said. He added that the song had “the right blend of simplicity, melody, lyric and sentiment.”

Keith, unlike most artists, usually performs at his industry parties, and this occasion proved no exception. Keith, the writers and Dann took the Rosewall stage to play “John Cougar, John Deere, John 3:16” live, with Keith manning the bass, just as he does on the single.

BIRTHDAYS

NOV. 16, 1963

KEITH BURNS

of Trick Pony

NOV. 17, 1977

AARON LINES

NOV. 17, 1988

REID PERRY
of The Band Perry

NOV. 19, 1973

BILLY CURRINGTON

NOV. 19, 1973

JASON ALBERT
of Heartland

NOV. 20, 1975

DIERKS BENTLEY

NOV. 20, 1977

JOSH TURNER

NOV. 21, 1933

JEAN SHEPARD

NOV. 21, 1974

KELSI OSBORN
of SHeDAISY



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Brooke Hogan
(left) and
actress Gianna
Simone

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Shaped like guitars, banjos, violins, pianos and more, specialty bags from Violettes by Becky look like works of art, and that's not surprising—each bag is crafted and painted by hand. While they're bound to catch the eye of onlookers, they are utilitarian as well, whether you're carrying extra strings and picks to a show or toting your keys and compact to a party.

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GUAC & ROLL

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO SPICE UP YOUR HOLIDAY PALATE, WE'VE GOT A GUACAMOLE RECIPE THAT'S SURE TO DO THE TRICK.

PHOTOS BY CARISSA RICCARDI

YOU KNOW HER BEST AS the bright and sassy former pageant queen on *America's Morning Show*, but Erika Grace Powell is also one serious foodie. And not only does she enjoy trying new Nashville restaurants and traveling the country sampling great local fare, she's a pretty competent home chef, too. In fact, she regularly hosts a "girls night" at her Nashville home that centers around yummy food, beautiful table settings and a whole lot of fun.

We caught Erika in the *Nash Country Weekly* kitchen whipping up a batch of guacamole and asked her about it.

"We always have this tradition every year when we're putting up our Christmas tree," she says. "It's the weekend after Thanksgiving and we love Mexican food, so it was always easy to have a pot of chili going and have a taco salad supper where everyone can build their own with things

chopped and ready to go on the bar while we're decorating. One Christmas, I came home from college and said, 'We should try making guacamole, Mom.' We had been having it at school and my brother said he had a recipe that they had made at his friend's family beach house over the summer. So, we started chatting about it and we found some ripe avocados." She laughs and continues, "The first batch wasn't great. We over salted it and didn't use cilantro, different things we weren't prepared for at the end of November, but then we all really worked on a pico and a guacamole recipe for the next year. My brother came up with one that was really good. We didn't have cayenne or crushed red pepper, but we did have cumin. Once we put the cayenne and red pepper back in, we kept the cumin because we liked that smoky flavor."

TAMMY RAGUSA



GUACAMOLE

5 avocados

4 vine-ripened tomatoes, chopped

Salt and pepper to taste

2 jalapeños, chopped

Cilantro, chopped, to taste

½ large red onion, chopped

½ tsp. each cayenne, cumin and crushed red pepper

2 cloves of garlic, chopped

2 limes

First, **REMOVE** the flesh from your avocado by halving it, removing the pit and then making slice marks to the skin to make it easier to remove. If your avocado is very ripe, you can scoop it out without cutting into it.

MASH the avocado, leaving it a little chunky since as you add ingredients, it will be mashed more as you stir.

STIR in chopped tomato, then salt and pepper to taste (Erika uses Himalayan sea salt). Then stir in chopped cilantro to taste. Don't use big pieces. **ADD** cayenne, cumin and crushed red pepper and stir thoroughly. **ADD** chopped red onion and garlic.

Start with one jalapeño and taste it before adding the second. Remember that the seeds and membrane are where the heat is in a jalapeño, so you may want to remove it if your palate is sensitive.

CUT one lime in half. If it is very juicy, you may want to stir in the juice of just one lime, so taste it afterwards before adding the juice of the second lime.

If you ever find that your jalapeños are much hotter than you intended them to be, because no pepper is exactly the same, you can always add another avocado or tomato or a little more lime juice and it will dilute.



Albums

Tim McGraw

Damn Country Music

BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP

A



Eleven—That’s the number of tracks on Tim McGraw’s 14th studio album, *Damn Country Music*. Also, on a scale of one to 10—10 being the highest, loudest and best—in the words of *Spinal Tap*’s Nigel Tufnel, “This one goes to 11.”

At 48, Tim sounds as fresh as, even fresher than, he did on his self-titled debut album more than 20 years ago. The production team of Tim and Byron Gallimore have struck country music pay dirt with this incredible collection that balances contemporary and traditional styles with amazing subtlety, all without making Tim sound as if he’s trying to keep up with the younger stars—indeed, with *Damn Country Music*, he’s in the



passing lane.

Actually, not everything here is subtle. Tim’s cover of the Wesley Dennis classic “Don’t Make Me Feel at Home” honors traditionalism by staying true to the stone-cold country goodness of the original, while his Big & Rich collaboration, “California,” is a cool, crisp and contemporary West Coast answer to wife Faith Hill’s “Sunshine and Summertime.”

Rest assured, the album doesn’t keep bouncing between yesterday and today, track by track. *Damn*

Country Music is cohesive, beautifully sequenced and totally unapologetic for being . . . damn country music. Songs like “How I’ll Always Be” and the title track expressly convey that message. This collection is country without overtly using fiddle, steel and banjo. It’s country in its sensibilities and in the bright energy that makes even heartbreak songs like “Losin’ You” and “What You’re Looking For” feel as good as “Top of the World.”

You know, Tim is hot (duh!)—not just musically, but physically. Still, he

reminds us twice on this project that he’s a hot dad. Daughter Gracie proves to be a skillful vocalist, worthy of her legacy, when she joins her dad on the opening track, “Here Tonight.” Tim then wraps the album by dispensing the sweet and sage life advice of “Humble and Kind,” country’s waltzing version of Rod Stewart’s “Forever Young.”

After repeated listens to *Damn Country Music*, the only fault may lie in the title. It should have been called *Damn GOOD Country Music*.

TAMMY RAGUSA

THE NCW JUKEBOX

10 beautiful songs
from *Nash Country
Weekly's 10 Most
Beautiful Women.*

REBA McENTIRE

"The Heart
Won't Lie"

**CARRIE
UNDERWOOD**

"Temporary Home"

SHANIA TWAIN

"Forever and
for Always"

**DANIELLE
BRADBERY**

"Talk About Love"

LAUREN ALAINA

"Funny Thing
About Love"

TERRI CLARK

"Love Is a Rose"

CASSADEE POPE

"I Am Invincible"

**MIRANDA
LAMBERT**

"Heart Like Mine"

LORETTA LYNN

"Love Is the
Foundation"

KELLIE PICKLER

"Don't You Know
You're Beautiful"

LOOK
FOR THIS
NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY
PLAYLIST ON
rdio

Carrie Underwood

Storyteller

ARISTA NASHVILLE

B




For a record utilizing three producers who each come in with differing strengths, this is a remarkably cohesive work. As the title more than amply implies, every cut on the album actually tells a story, one of

the distinctly finer elements of country songwriting (jazz great John Coltrane once professed that he listened to country music because of "the stories"). Carrie places herself in the position of the "storyteller" in each song and pulls them off with equal aplomb and credibility (though at times a bit heavy on the bombast), whether the story centers on a wild and wily female in the rip-roaring opener "Renegade Runaway" or an abusive relationship ("Church Bells"). At times, though, the album suffers from overproduction and a noise level more suited to a rock album. That aggression leaves you

unprepared for the eventual slowdowns like "Heartbeat," featuring a backing vocal from Sam Hunt, or the closer, "What I Never Knew I Always Wanted," a lovely meditation on marriage and motherhood inspired by Carrie's own life. You do have to admire some of the risk-taking here, whether in subject matter or the vocal challenges required of her—check out the unusual, almost halting phrasing on the chorus of "Clock Don't Stop," for instance. Carrie's never been in better voice, but a little more control in the production would have served her well.

BOB PAXMAN



A full-page photograph of country music artist Leah Turner. She is standing outdoors, leaning on a wooden fence, with green foliage in the background. She has long, wavy blonde hair and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a dark brown leather jacket with long fringe on the sleeves and front, over a light blue long-sleeved shirt and light purple pants. She is also wearing a long necklace with turquoise beads and a gold bull head pendant.

COWGIRL UP

**LEAH TURNER HEADS
BACK TO HER OLD
STOMPING GROUNDS
TO SHOOT THE VIDEO
FOR "COWBOY LOVE."**



The horse, the truck and even the cowboy were props, but Leah Turner was not—she's a bona fide cowgirl who knows full well how to saddle up, and she proves it in the video for "Cowboy Love."



You might picture sunny beaches and Hollywood hills when you think of California, but, as Leah's "Cowboy Love" video demonstrates, the Golden State has plenty of ranch-ready countryside.



Some people have the wrong idea about California, and Leah Turner knows it. When she moved to Nashville, she was often asked how there could possibly be country music in a state known for glitz, glam and movie stars. "I'm like, 'Haven't you ever heard of the Wild West?'" she says with a laugh. She is, of course, talking about all of the old Western movies—loaded with cowboy ballads—that were filmed in Hollywood. Leah was born about 100 miles east of LaLa Land in the Morongo Valley, an area of California bustling with a country and Western lifestyle.

"I was raised by a cowboy," she says, her blond waves swinging as she flashes a bright, white smile any California girl would envy. "My dad is a professional team roper, so I grew up on the rodeo

circuit. We were gone Thursday to Sunday chasing the rodeo with my dad. It was me, my mom and my dad with a horse trailer in the back with three or four horses and living quarters in the trailer."

So, Leah was already accustomed to life on the road before she ever went out on tour with Brad Paisley. She was also more than just a little familiar with how things worked when she returned to California to shoot the video for her new single, "Cowboy Love."

"We filmed it on a ranch in Indio, which is where they hold Stagecoach and Coachella," she says. "My dad's roping partner has cattle there that they practice roping with, so we used their ranch and horses."

Leah wasn't just a pretty prop in the video, though. She was actually riding, pushing cattle and swinging saddles. "We used my dad's championship saddle and it was so heavy,"

she notes. "I'm still so sore because I had to pick it up from the ground and throw it into the back of his truck like I was going to the ranch. It was so heavy, but it was fun and it felt good to be on horses and doing what I grew up doing."

Despite its bouncy tempo and poppy groove, "Cowboy Love" is a romantic song perfectly suited for Leah's husky vocals. "It's really about a man that stands by you and loves you and lets you be you," says Leah. "And when you have a bad day, he says, 'Let's go to Vegas.' He has strong hands and a tender touch and you just feel so safe in his arms. It's a man that stands by you."

And who would that man be for Leah? "My dad has always been the one that stands by me," she says, beaming. "And he happens to be a cowboy."

TAMMY RAGUSA

CHRIS CARMACK

The singer/actor who stars as Will Lexington on the ABC series *Nashville* shares some of his memorable “firsts.”

FIRST DRINK

My brother came home from college one time and got me drunk on Sambuca, of all things. So, that was my first drink and first time getting drunk.

FIRST BEST FRIEND

My first good buddy was Adam and he would love to see his name in this article. He's a great guy.

FIRST AWARD EVER WON

A spelling competition in the second grade. I won a half-dollar, if anybody knows what that is anymore.

FIRST JOB

I worked for a janitorial services company in my dad's office building. My brother and I cleaned the restrooms and vacuumed the offices. Everybody always thinks it was a terrible job but, actually, most of the people left things pretty clean. It wasn't too bad.

FIRST CAR

A Volkswagen.

FIRST LOVE

We can keep it as, “She'll know.” And believe me, she will.

FIRST KISS

The same person.

FIRST THING YOU DO WHEN YOU GET HOME

Play the guitar. One of the first things I did when I moved to Los Angeles was buy a guitar. I used to practice about six or seven hours a day when I was first starting to learn. So, I still practice, but not that many hours.

FIRST CONCERT

Matchbox 20 opening for Aerosmith. It was in the mid-'90s but I don't remember the exact year.

NASH **NEXT**

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



FREAK SHOW

GOOD-NATURED
JOE NICHOLS
KNOWS THE ROLE
HE WAS BORN TO
PLAY: HIMSELF.

STORY BY JIM CASEY

Joe Nichols feels like a freak at the moment, and it's not because his new single, "Freaks Like Me," has recently been released to country radio. Instead, it's because he's made a '70s-movie reference, and the flick in question has yet to come across the Netflix queues of his bright-eyed PR team. They are giving him the ole "chirping crickets"—you know, the awkward pause after a joke falls flat and the silence is so deafening you can hear crickets chirp.

Joe, however, will not be deterred. If his rapier wit goes unrecognized, the 38-year-old will grind these proceedings to a halt. Imparting his movie wisdom to his younger staff takes precedent. Let's rewind 30 seconds prior.

After a quick introduction and handshake at a recording studio on Nashville's Music Row, Joe stops in his tracks, re-grips my hand, looks into my eyes and says, "My name is Jim, but most people call me . . . Jim." That's when he gets the bewildered looks—and cricket chirps—from his team. Joe scans the room in disbelief that his joke has tanked, pleading, "Anyone? Come on, *anyone*?"

This is not the first time my first name has sparked an allusion to the Gene Wilder zinger from the Mel Brooks-directed comedy, and I come to Joe's aid by saying, "Yeah, *Blazing Saddles*." That's precisely the retort Joe was waiting for. Victory is his, and he begins a lengthy sidebar on the merits of "one of the greatest comedies ever." From there, he digresses into quotes from a few of his other favorite movies, including *Super Troopers* and *The Big Lebowski*, which, he says, "My wife likes to call 'idiot humor,' but that doesn't stop me from watching."

It's just part of who he is.

Likewise, Joe's new single, "Freaks Like Me," takes a coy approach at the same goal: being unapologetically proud of who you are. It's a point



Between recording a new album, releasing a new single, "Freaks Like Me," and playing shows like the Farm-borough Country Music Festival in NYC (below), it's been an action-packed year for Joe Nichols.



Joe and his wife, Heather, walk the red carpet before the 2010 ACM Awards in Las Vegas.

Joe's baritone voice hammers home in the song's chorus: *Freaks like me, just outside the in crowd / Freaks like me, out of style and damn proud / Raise a hand, 'cause I'm a fan / Of*



everyone who has turned out to be / Freaks like me.

"The first time I heard that song, I was in love with the first verse, it had me hooked," says Joe. "I loved everything it said. It was very quick to the point and when the chorus came in, it punched me in the face, and I was like, 'This is brilliant, I love it.' I was sold before I heard the second verse. And I think the second verse is the strongest one in the song. I stood up immediately and said, 'We have to cut this, like immediately. It's got to be on this record. It feels like if we do a good job on this, it will be the first



COVERED UP

On his 2013 album, *Crickets*, Joe covered Merle Haggard's 1979 tune "Footlights." For the last two years, the song has become a fan favorite that Joe has worked into his live

performances from time to time. The bad news: there won't be any covers on Joe's new album. The good news: Joe has plans for a future EP of cover tunes.

"I didn't cover anything on this album and it's because of an idea we have that we haven't

really landed on solidly yet, but we're probably gonna do a little EP of cover standards. We've talked about it a little bit, but we haven't been firm in locking down exactly what we want to do just yet, but maybe a four- or five-song EP with old country standards or maybe a few obscure ones, something from 30 or 40 years ago."



20 TO LIFE

2016 marks a significant milestone for Joe Nichols. No, it's not his 40th birthday. That doesn't roll around until 2017. Instead, 2016 will be the 20th anniversary of Joe's self-titled debut album. It's a landmark accomplishment that he hasn't fully wrapped his head around.

"I can't believe it," says Joe. "Some days it feels like a lifetime ago and sometimes it feels like yesterday. But the best part is, I'm still here doing the music I want to do. When I got it into my mind that I wanted to be a musician, go to Nashville, make country music, I asked myself who I would model myself after if I could. I always loved the way George Strait did things and how his career went. He kept his sound, kept it George Strait and tried to carry on a traditional message for all the decades he was in it—and still to this day. I always wanted to be like that and have longevity and be that constant country guy like George."

single.' Everyone was in agreement. We all loved it."

There was one problem: Justin Moore had the song on hold. But sometimes fate has a funny way of rearing its freakish head, and in this instance, it came in the form of geography. Both Justin and Joe hail from Arkansas, and those boys from the Natural State like to stick together, or at least help each other out when one gets stuck. Joe was stuck on "Freaks Like Me."

"It was really cool of Justin to acquiesce once he saw how passionate I was about the song," says Joe. "I reached out to him and said, 'Man, thank you so much for being so cool about that. It was a very high-minded thing you did.' He wasn't cutting songs right away, so he said, 'Man, go sing the fire out of it. I know you'll do a good job on it.' He's another Arkansas boy, so I owe him one."

In September, "Freaks Like Me" was released as the first single from Joe's forthcoming album, which is tentatively titled after the lead single and due out in early 2016. If "Freaks Like Me" is any indication, Joe's new project will couple his traditional croon and guitar riffs with a contemporary energy that should make many of the tunes radio friendly.

"The new album has songs on there that are musically like 'Freaks Like Me,'" says Joe. "It's a well-rounded album. We've got some good, big, power-driving message-songs like 'Freaks Like Me,' we've got some meaningful, deep songs, we've got a little fluff and we've also got some intimate moments on there, too. So we kinda tried to cover all our bases, and I think we've got a really good album."

Just don't expect the tradition-

al-minded Joe to chase the latest trends. He knows the role he was meant to play, evidenced by his string of No. 1 hits, starting with "Brokenheartsville" on his sophomore album in 2002 and capping with "Yeah" from 2013's *Crickets*.

"It's me singing, so you know it's gonna be a little more of a traditional-feeling vocal," he says. "I'm blessed by the limitation of my voice. I think that's a very under-appreciated thing for me—I don't appreciate it sometimes. That is, if I had a lot of different talents and I could do a lot of different things, sound a lot of different ways, I would probably explore that to the point of not being good at anything. I'm glad my voice only lets me sing country, it gives my mind a chance to butt out and just let it happen."

Sounds freakish, but that's a role Joe has mastered. **N**

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- FLATTERING LONGER LENGTH WITH CINCHED WAIST
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2015 Holiday Gift Guide

THAT'S A WRAP

Letters to Santa may change a bit, thanks to technology, but one thing remains the same: we're all searching for the perfect gift. Whether you're having a "Blue(tooth) Christmas" or a "Blue (Jean) Christmas," we have some suggestions for a special gift for that special someone.

PHOTOS BY CARISSA RICCARDI

MEN

1. MEN'S ROPER RETRO PLAID SHIRT

Super-soft poly/cotton blend makes this pearl snap feel more like silk and look sensational.

\$40 Call 888-767-3663 to find a retailer near you.

2. DAN POST MEN'S EVERGLADES BOOTS

What a croc! No, seriously—these eye-catching kicks are genuine caiman!

\$490

DanPostBoots.com

3. WRANGLER PREMIUM PERFORMANCE COOL VANTAGE JEANS

Breakthrough technology wicks moisture away, leaving wearer cool, dry and comfortable.

\$50 Wrangler.com



WOMEN

4. TEXAS CUFF

Wear your heart on your sleeve. Not from Texas? Check out their Steer Cuff, too. **\$58**
JordanLovesJamesJewelry.com



5. BULLET TASSEL NECKLACE

Make a strong, sophisticated statement with these pieces that you can color-customize. **\$74**
JordanLovesJamesJewelry.com



6. LADIES ROPER COAT

Super-cute and warm zip-front coat with hood, pockets and fun knit yokes and elbow patches. **\$80** Call 888-767-3663 to find a retailer near you.



7. DINGO TRES FRINGE BOOTS

Tres Fringe is triple the fun and so sassy with rolled-up jeans or a skirt. **\$190** *DanPostBoots.com*



8. WORLD'S SOFTEST SOCKS

No, they really ARE the softest socks that ever hugged your toes. **\$15**
WorldsSoftest.com



GADGETS

9. POLAR: A300 FITNESS TRACKER

Links up to your smartphone to give you a nudge when you've been sitting for too long.

\$160 Polar.com

10. URBANEARS WIRELESS HEADPHONE

Bluetooth technology allows you to "swipe" to favorite tracks, play, pause and turn it up!

\$100 UrbanEars.com

11. FLUANCE F150 WIRELESS BLUETOOTH SPEAKER SYSTEM

From your device to your ears, with no cords required, great sound can look awesome, too.

\$200 Fluance.com

12. ELECTROHOME RETRO ALARM CLOCK RADIO

Not-so-early risers can activate "snooze" with just a wave of their hand with this hi-tech ticker. **\$35** Electrohome.com

13. ZIPBUDS TANGLE FREE EARBUDS

No more knots, and pristine sound.

\$25 TheGrommet.com

14. RAPOO A300 MINI-SPEAKER

This powerful little cube packs a lot of sound and allows for two devices to connect wirelessly. **\$35** Walmart.com



KITCHEN



15

15. DRINKTANKS PERSONAL GROWLER

Keep 64 ounces of your favorite craft beer cold and fresh for up to a week. Cheers! **\$70** TheGrommet.com

16. MEAT MARK-IT BRANDING IRON

Put your brand on your beef... **\$20** HomeWetBar.com

17. MOSCOW MULE MUG

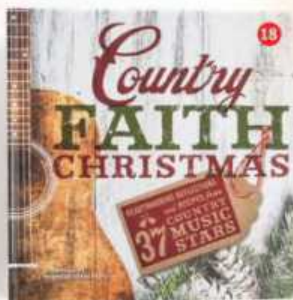
Enjoy Randy Houser's favorite cocktail in this beautiful hammered copper cup. **\$30** HomeWetBar.com



16



17



18



19



20

18. COUNTRY FAITH CHRISTMAS

Country stars share Christmas memories, recipes and traditions in this warm collection.

\$19 Amazon.com

19. HYLEY'S TEA COLLECTION

Nine great flavors of yummy tea displayed beautifully for your next tea time. **\$70** HyleysTeaOnline.com

20. BEER CAP MAP

Display bottle caps from your state favorites in this fun map. **\$35** HomeWetBar.com

THE HOLIDAY HIT LIST

Wouldn't it be great to spend Christmas with your favorite stars? Now you can with 20 CDs from today's hottest hitmakers. You could win **ALL 20** albums featured here. To enter and view rules, go to CountryWeekly.com between Nov. 13 and Nov. 27. We will be giving 25 lucky winners a copy of each album listed here.

WIN THEM ALL!

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. WINNERS CHOSEN AT RANDOM.



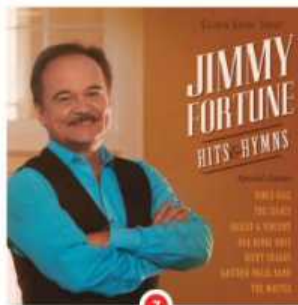
KELSEA BALLERINI
THE FIRST TIME

Featuring
"Love Me Like You Mean It" and "Dibs"



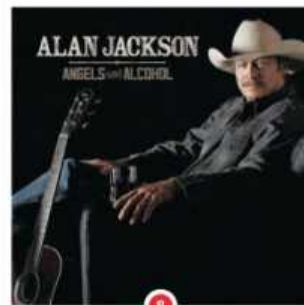
CLINT BLACK
ON PURPOSE

Featuring
"Time for That" and "You Still Get to Me"



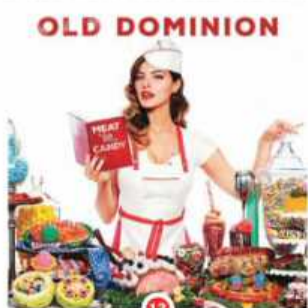
JIMMY FORTUNE
HITS & HYMNS

Featuring
special guests
Ricky Skaggs, Vince Gill
and more



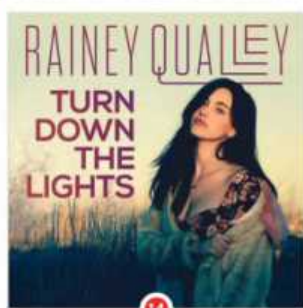
ALAN JACKSON
ANGELS AND ALCOHOL

Featuring
"Jim and Jack and Hank" and "You Can Always Come Home"



OLD DOMINION
MEAT AND CANDY

Featuring
"Break Up With Him" and
"Said Nobody"



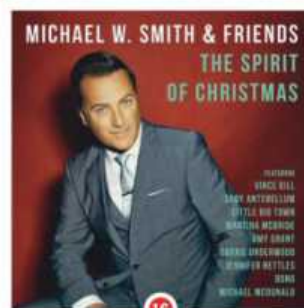
RAINEY QUALLEY
TURN DOWN THE LIGHTS

Featuring
"Me and Johnny Cash"
and "Turn Me On Like
the Radio"



MICHAEL RAY
MICHAEL RAY

Featuring
"Kiss You in the
Morning" and "Real
Men Love Jesus"



**MICHAEL W. SMITH
& FRIENDS**
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Featuring collaborations
with artists Vince Gill,
Lady Antebellum, more



3

LUKE BRYAN
KILL THE LIGHTS

Featuring

"Strip It Down" and
"Kick the Dust Up"

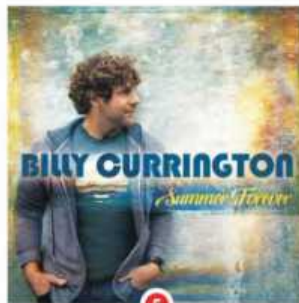


4

CAM
UNTAMED

Featuring

"Burning House" and
"My Mistake"



5

BILLY CURRINGTON
SUMMER FOREVER

Featuring

"Don't It" and
"Drinkin' Town With
a Football Problem"



6

BRETT ELDREDGE
ILLINOIS

Featuring

"Lose My Mind" and
"Drunk on Your Love"



9

CHRIS JANSON
BUY ME A BOAT

Featuring

"Buy Me a Boat"
and "Power of
Positive Drinking"



10

JANA KRAMER
THIRTY ONE

Featuring

"I Got the Boy"
and "Love"



11

KIP MOORE
WILD ONES

Featuring

"I'm to Blame" and
"Running for You"



12

KACEY MUSGRAVES
PAGEANT MATERIAL

Featuring

"Biscuits" and
"Dime Store Cowgirl"



17

BLAKE SHELTON
RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS

Featuring 20 No. 1 hits
from Blake's career, like
"Sangria" and "Austin"



18

SHANIA TWAIN
**STILL THE ONE: LIVE
FROM VEGAS**

Featuring hits performed
by Shania during her resi-
dency at Caesars Palace in
Las Vegas



19

CARRIE UNDERWOOD
STORYTELLER

Featuring

"Smoke Break" and
"Renegade Runaway"



20

CHRIS YOUNG
I'M COMIN' OVER

Featuring

"I'm Comin' Over"
and "Think of You"
(duet with Cassadee Pope)



IF THIS ROOM'S A-ROCKIN'

Musicians on Call, an organization that has been bringing music to the bedsides of patients in healthcare facilities since 1999, kicked off its Rock the Room Tour with a party at Nashville's City Winery in October with the help of (above from left) Charles Esten, Musicians on Call president Pete Griffin, Reba McEntire, honoree Shane Tarleton, Martina McBride, Kelsea Ballerini, Dave Haywood and his wife, Kelli Cashiola.



(Above) Reba McEntire (left) and Martina McBride perform for honoree Shane Tarleton; (below) Lady Antebellum's Dave Haywood (right) quadruples the bid on a guitar up for auction with his gentle touch.



Kelsea Ballerini



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Constantius II, became Caesar at 7, and a Roman Emperor at age 20. Today, he is remembered for helping continue his father's work of bringing Christianity to the Roman Empire, as well as for his valiant leadership in battle.

But for many collectors, his strongest legacy is having created one of the most fascinating and unique bronze coins in the history of the Roman Empire: the "Gladiator's Paycheck".

THE GLADIATORS PAYCHECK

Roman bronze coins were the "silver dollars" of their day. They were the coins used for daily purchases, as well as for the payment of wages. Elite Roman Gladiators—paid to do battle before cheering crowds in the Colosseum—often received their monthly 'paycheck' in the form of Roman bronze coins.

But this particular Roman bronze has a gladiator pedigree like no other! Minted between 348 to 361 AD, the Emperor's portrait appears on one side of this coin. The other side depicts a literal clash of the gladiators. One warrior raises his spear menacingly at a second warrior on horseback. Frozen in bronze for over 1,600 years, the drama of this moment can still be felt when you hold the coin. Surrounding this dramatic scene is a Latin inscription—a phrase you would never expect in a million years!

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

The Latin inscription surrounding the gladiators reads: "Happy Days are Here Again" (*Fel Temp Reparatio*). You see, at the time these coins were designed, the Emperor had just won several

important military battles against the foes of Rome. At the same time, Romans were preparing to celebrate the 1100th anniversary of the founding of Rome. To mark these momentous occasions, this new motto was added and the joyful inscription makes complete sense.

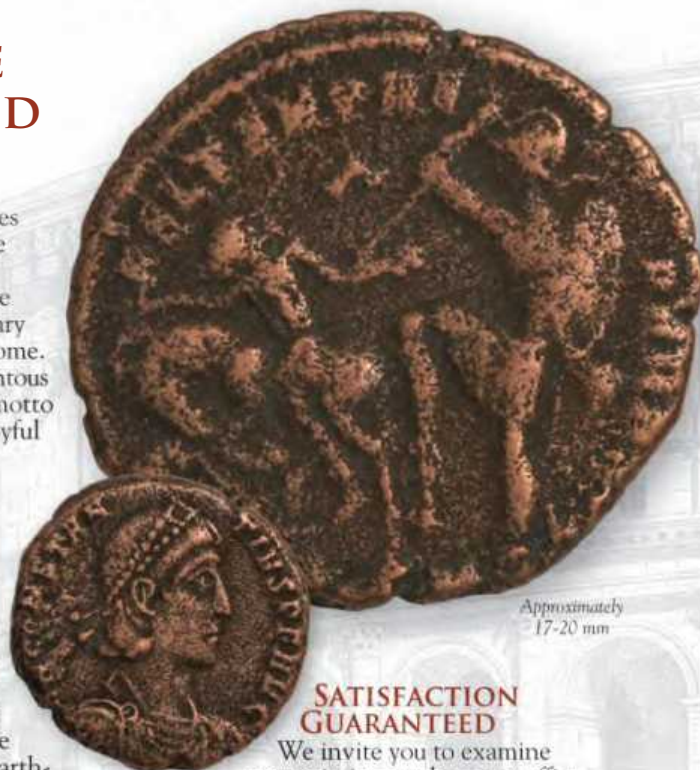
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Photo by David McClister/Monarch Publicity

THE IN CROWD

CHRIS YOUNG expands his horizons on his new album, with a little help from his friends.

STORY BY ASHLEY EICHER

IT'S 2:30 P.M. on a beautiful October afternoon at Pinewood Social, a local bar and bowling alley on the edge of downtown Nashville. Chris Young and his pals Corey Crowder and Josh Hoge, seated on modern, grey benches, have already ordered appetizers and are cracking up over an inside joke as they slide on their bowling shoes.

"We have a lot of inside jokes," Josh explains, without offering to elaborate.

"We do and most of them will never see the light of day," Chris says with a mischievous grin on his face.

"As long as no one gets a hold of our text stream, we should be fine," Josh adds.

The text stream, they later explain, consists of song ideas, inside jokes and the day-to-day banter that is the standard of close friendships. As the conversation turns to whether or

not they will keep score, the three guys are exuberantly talking smack over who will win and what nicknames to choose. One thing is immediately clear: the competition may not be fierce, but, with the steady barrage of jokes these three supply, it will definitely be entertaining.

"We don't have to keep score," Josh says.

"Oh no, we are totally keeping score," insists Chris.

"The idea is to knock all of the pins down, right?" Corey deadpans.

While they may not be printing

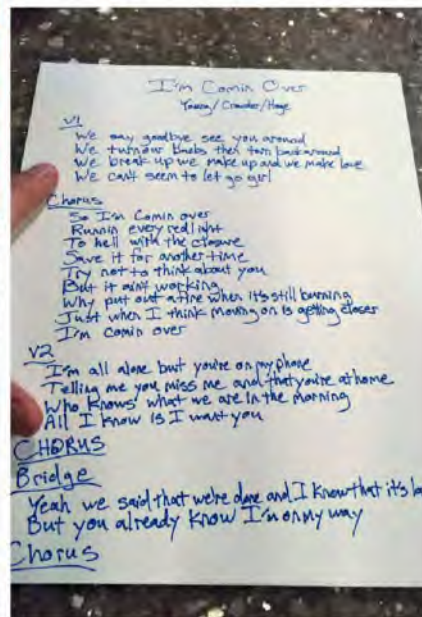
them on the back of bowling league T-shirts anytime soon, the guys' nicknames give further insight into a friendship that gives them the freedom to be who they are, respectfully poke fun at each other and not

take themselves or each other too seriously. Cool, calm and easygoing Chris opts for the more literal "CY."





(Clockwise from top left) Songwriter Josh Hoge; songwriter Corey Crowder (left) and Chris Young celebrate Chris' 30th birthday in June; the original lyrics to "I'm Comin' Over," a tune Chris, Corey and Josh co-penned; Corey; Chris (left) and Josh kick back in Chicago before a show.



Josh Hoge: Chris & Corey courtesy Monarch Publicity; Chris & Josh courtesy Chris Young Instagram; Corey courtesy Corey Crowder; lyrics courtesy Chris Young Twitter; Cassadee by Brooke Boling/BMLG; Jonathan by Robbie Quinn/ASCAP; Jonathan by Joseph Llanes/EE Media; per photo by Hason Emory/Monarch Publicity

CHRIS YOUNG CONTINUED

"We've got to come up with a more creative nickname for me," Chris says, laughing. Corey is bestowed with "Lion King" and Josh has the dubious honor of being called "Deer Hooves."

The entire group erupts into laughter—this is obviously one of those inside jokes.

"It all started one afternoon when I saw this quote and then told this funny story about how somebody said something about a lion," explains Corey. "OK, it doesn't sound very funny but it became funny because everybody started buying me lion stuff that I didn't want. Next thing I know I'm the lion guy. I have hats, stuffed lions, things that hang from your mirror—it is terrible."

"This stuff is all over his studio," Chris explains. "But there isn't an actual valid reason for him to have a bunch of lion stuff."

"And I'm deer hooves, because my feet are tiny," Josh jokes, before bowling his first frame. "Like I

might fall over."

This irreverent friendship is the heartbeat of Chris' fifth studio album, *I'm Comin' Over*, which arrived Nov. 13. Together, the three men wrote more than half of the songs on the record, including the hit single "I'm Comin' Over"—currently a *Billboard* Top 5 country song and already certified gold, with more than 11 million video views on VEVO. Chris and Corey co-produced the album—marking Chris' first time to take the helm over conceiving, writing, producing and recording an album.

"That was fun for me. Producing is something I've always wanted to do and it was really important to me to do on this project," says Chris. "And there is nothing better than being able to do it with someone who is as talented as Corey is and sees music the same way I do."

A native of Loganville, Ga., Corey began his musical career as a touring artist. His songs have been heard in *Nashville, One Tree*

Hill and *The Biggest Loser*, and recorded by Chris, Eric Paslay, A Thousand Horses and many others. Josh grew up in Franklin, Tenn., surrounded by jazz and rock musicians, and landed a major pop label deal but stopped recording around 2010. He's since written songs for everyone from The Backstreet Boys and Jesse McCartney to the Randy Rogers Band and Justin Moore.

Between the endless one-liners and undeniable familiarity, it is hard to believe that Chris, Corey and Josh only started writing and hanging out together a little more than a year and a half ago. And while he comes across as the laid-back jokester of the group, Josh actually had the foresight to bring the three of them together.

"Josh and I have known each other forever," Chris says. "Josh and Corey have known each other forever but up until a year and a half ago, Corey and I didn't really know each other at all."

GUEST LIST

Chris Young's new album, *I'm Comin' Over*, is packed with top-tier talent.



"Alone Tonight"

FEATURING: Cassadee Pope

ACCORDING TO CHRIS:

"I was playing a radio show in Miami that Cassadee was playing on too. She opened her mouth to sing, got through the first chorus and I knew I had to ask her to sing on this song. Thankfully she agreed."

"Sober Saturday Night"

FEATURING: Vince Gill

ACCORDING TO CHRIS:

"I remember sitting in the grass at Starwood Amphitheater as a kid watching Vince perform. I have always been such a huge fan of his. I'm still so excited that



he agreed to be a part of it.

"The morning that I came in and sang 'Sober Saturday Night,' I had slept in until 10:30 a.m. I wasn't hoarse but my voice was really gritty. I had just woken up, came into the studio and sang. I actually think it worked in our favor. It sounded cool, real and raw instead of polished."



"Callin' My Name"

FEATURING:

Jonathan Singleton

ACCORDING TO CHRIS:

"Jonathan is singing harmony on 'Callin' My Name,' which he wrote with Corey and me. He is an incredible singer and songwriter."

"I Know a Guy"

FEATURING: Kristen Rogers

ACCORDING TO CHRIS:

"Kristen, who is one of the backup singers for A Thousand Horses, sang this beautiful harmony on 'I Know a Guy.'"





**“That’s the
beauty of
co-writing.
You come
with an idea
from your
life and build
on top of it
by drawing
from every-
one else’s
personal
experiences.”**

CHRIS YOUNG CONTINUED

Josh called me one day and said, 'Man, you have to come in and write with me and this guy Corey Crowder. We are getting some really good stuff.'"

Corey was playing in a softball game when the call came. He ended up canceling another writing appointment to meet with Josh and Chris.

"I kept thinking, 'What if he doesn't show up and here I've canceled this other co-write?'" Corey recalls. "I was nervous until he walked in the door."

"That first day in the writing room was so fun," adds Chris. "We laughed the entire time. It felt natural to write a song together. We wrote 'Alone Tonight' that day. It ended up being the first song we wrote for the record and we all loved it. From there we decided to keep writing together until it didn't make sense anymore. We liked almost everything we created together."

That collaborative chemistry deepened their friendship to something reminiscent of lifelong pals, with the requisite pranking and teasing. Josh pulls out his phone to show a high-school-era press photo of Chris that he's saving for a rainy day. Not to be outdone, Corey confesses he has an audio recording of Chris singing the female parts on "Think of Me," a duet with Cassadee Pope and one of the album's handful of collaborations (see sidebar). A vocal with a high C-sharp that the guys jokingly explain no human being should be able to hit, Cassadee nailed it perfectly on every take.

"She sang it three times and never missed it. She is a phenomenal singer," Chris says, before turning to Corey. "Hold on, do you really have a recording of me singing the female vocals?"

"Yes I do," Corey says with a sneaky grin. "It's a Chris Young se-

cret I'm holding onto for a while."

As the three guys spent more time together, the easier their co-writes became no matter if they were at dinner, watching football or just hanging out.

"We didn't have to get together and catch up on what's been going on in our lives because we were hanging out all the time," says Josh. "We all knew what was going on with the other one."

"Even when we weren't hanging out together, we'd go back and forth over text with song ideas," adds Chris. "After writing together for a while, I put a playlist together of the songs we had written, listened to the demos Corey built in the studio and knew this is what I wanted my album to sound like."

Their friendship proved to be a turning point for Chris. With a passionate belief in the music they were creating and a confidence that comes from life experience and the willingness to take some risks, Chris personally wrote a check and quietly recorded six songs for the record.

"We didn't do it in complete secrecy," Chris says before bowling a spare and taking the lead. "The label knew we were going in to cut. But I basically said, 'If you don't like it, I'll eat the cost of recording these songs.' And man, that can [get] expensive quick. The funny thing is, as much as Corey and I changed some things on this record, I didn't necessarily feel the pressure to change. It didn't feel like we were trying to fit a square peg in a round hole. It just always felt good, natural and right. But I don't think I would be in the position I am in or writing and recording the songs that we are if I wasn't doing it with these two guys."

Trusting their instincts paid off. When Chris went in to play the new songs for the label executives

at Sony Music Nashville, they told the three-man team to keep going.

With clear focus and direction, each of the guys drew from each of their personal experiences to write the songs still needed for the record, especially Chris.

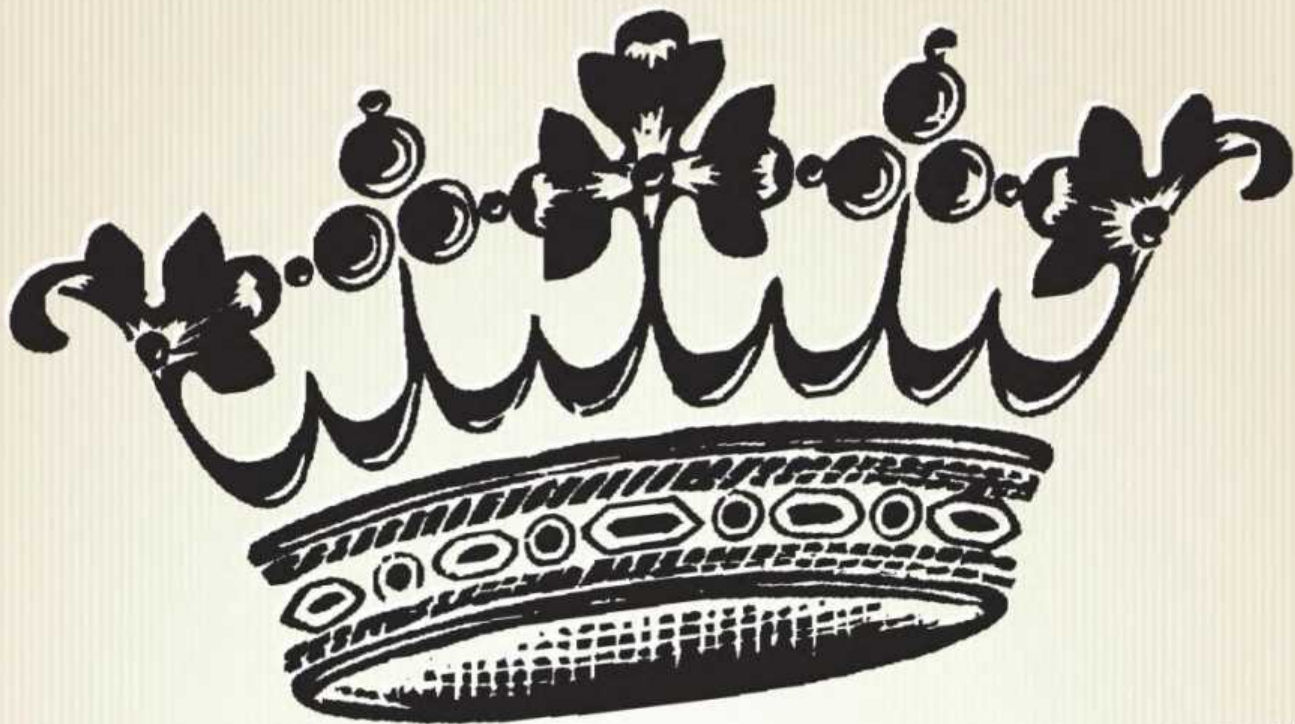
"I think Chris is now in a position where he can write from a more personal standpoint," says Josh. "'I'm Comin' Over' was Chris' idea and a story that belongs to him. At this point, we have all lived through some things—separately and together—and it's so much easier to write the deeper stuff when you are writing with close friends."

"It was a personal situation that gave me that idea and I think it is something everyone can relate to," Chris says of "I'm Comin' Over." "Unless you are Corey and married your high school sweetheart. He wanted to call the song 'I'm Still Comin' Over' for his wife. That's the beauty of co-writing. You come with an idea from your life and build on top of it by drawing from everyone else's personal experiences."

As much as they love to joke around, it is clear that the admiration and respect Chris, Josh and Corey have for their unique gifts and talents is the heartbeat of their friendship.

"I'm am so glad that I not only got to make this album, but that I was able to make it with both of them," says Chris. "This record came from the three of us creating music that we all enjoy together. These are my guys and I love that we get to share a full album. There are so many cool things I think people will hear when they listen to this record and really live with it. I want people to want to put it on repeat and listen to it again and again."

"Maybe the title of this article should be called 'Deer Hooves, Lions, Oh My,'" offers Josh. "Chris can be the 'Oh My.'" **NCW**



The Queens of Country

.....
HERE ARE COUNTRY MUSIC'S MOST
BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, AS VOTED BY
NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY'S READERS.



10. Kellie Pickler

AGE: 29

STATUS: Married to Kyle Jacobs

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: Kellie Pickler is a stunner, with radiant blond locks, warm brown-green eyes, gorgeous sun-kissed skin and the kind of smile that would make an orthodontist beam with pride. But she's also a lovely human being. Blessed with a razor-sharp wit that can activate at a moment's notice, Kellie is the life of any social gathering. Her musical talents and appreciation for country's history run deep, as does her appreciation for the U.S. military—for whom she has performed numerous times. If beauty is a total package kind of deal, Kellie Pickler is all that plus same-day delivery.



9. Loretta Lynn

AGE: 83

STATUS: Widowed

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: There is nary a country gal who has worn the designation with such dignity as Loretta Lynn, now gracefully aging into her 80s as one of country music's most important and influential figures. The Coal Miner's Daughter always accentuated her fiery, country-girl attitude with her appearance, making big hair and bigger dresses look cool long after they had any right to do so. More than that, without her suffer-no-fools approach to songwriting, there would be no Miranda Lambert or countless other strong female artists who followed in her wake. For that, Loretta's more than beautiful—she's flat-out timeless.



8. Miranda Lambert

AGE: 32

STATUS: Single

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: Miranda Lambert may be more than a blond-haired, blue-eyed bombshell with a taut bod, but that's an explosive place to start. When you couple those physical attributes with her feisty attitude and unlimited singing talent, it's a combustible combo that will make any man weak in the knees. The fact that she's single now, well, that just ups the ante. Game on, Miranda.





7. Cassadee Pope

AGE: 26

STATUS: Single

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: With a beautiful, sexy style all her own, Cassadee Pope is one part rocker chick and two parts country cutie. Her tattoos and spitfire demeanor give her an edge, but her spontaneous personality and winning smile pull you in—and those green eyes won't let you go.



6. Terri Clark

AGE: 47

STATUS: Single

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: The Hollies could have had another hit with Terri Clark as their subject: *long, cool woman in a black . . . hat*. The dark-haired, dark-eyed Canadian songbird has legs for days and a smile that's as knowing as it is sexy. In fact, the most apropos way to sum up Terri is by borrowing the title to her 1998 No. 1 hit: "You're Easy on the Eyes."



Cassadee courtesy: BMG; Terri courtesy: Spalding Entertainment; Lauren courtesy: M. Christian Management; Danielle courtesy: BMG



4. Danielle Bradbery

AGE: 19

STATUS: Single

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: With a sweet, soulful sound, Danielle rose to prominence as the Season 4 winner of *The Voice* in 2013, but her even sweeter demeanor has endeared her to country music fans since her time on the show. It also helps that the slim Texas sweetheart has girl-next-door good looks, highlighted by a smile that won't stop and a pair of blue eyes that are as bright as her future.



5. Lauren Alaina

AGE: 21

STATUS: Single

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: If you're looking for the All-American country sweetheart, you've found her. Lauren Alaina is who all the girls want to be best friends with, and the girl all the guys want to date.

But her beauty isn't just skin-deep. Her kind, gentle heart and warm, loving soul have made her a fan favorite across the board since she first charmed audiences on *American Idol* in 2011.

Then there's her bubbly, witty personality and infectious laugh that will turn anybody's bad day into a great one just by being in her presence.





3. *Shania Twain*

AGE: 50

STATUS: Married to Frédéric Thiébaud

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: Even at 50, Shania still kills in glamorous, tight-fitting outfits and boots, as evidenced by her recent concert tour. Shania credits part of her ever-youthful look to a strict, no-nonsense vegetarian diet—hold the carbs and the starch, please. And we're pretty sure she works out, too. Shania has taken first place in our poll a number of times and, judging by your votes, she's still No. 1 in many of your hearts.



2. *Carrie Underwood*

AGE: 32

STATUS: Married to Mike Fisher

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: The bright blond hair, the girl-next-door beauty, a figure that seems all too perfect for a mere mortal. Plus, there's the voice that can sing the fire out of an up-tempo number and be just as soothing and caressing on a ballad. That's, of course, the outer Carrie. But fans find her just as beautiful for the exemplary way in which she lives her life. Carrie and hockey-playing husband Mike Fisher make up a glam couple, all right, but they still find it important to give back to the community in the form of their charitable efforts. Carrie also became a first-time mom earlier this year, completing the beautiful picture.



1. Reba McEntire

AGE: 60

STATUS: Separated

BEAUTY RE-MARKS: One look at the incredibly fit, youthful-looking redhead and there's no way you'd guess that she's just turned 60. She's as busy as ever with her album projects, endorsements and Las Vegas residency with Brooks & Dunn at Caesars Palace. Yet, Reba exhibits the energy and enthusiasm of an entertainer half her age. So, what's the magic secret? As she recently told ABC News, it's as simple as, "Staying happy. I think it's very important to be of good mental attitude." And as you might expect, Reba sticks to a regular, and fairly rigorous, workout routine. She watches her diet, while admitting to having the occasional cheeseburger when she wants to splurge. It all adds up to one beautiful woman, your No. 1 choice as the Fairest of the Fair in country music.



OLD FRIENDS, NEW TRACKS

MUSIC ROW'S SONGWRITING community is a close-knit one, but oddly, it can contain longtime friends who almost never sit in the same room to work on a song. Such is the relationship between Brett James and Brett Beavers, whose friendship goes back to the days when they both attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Even though they've both made it big as songwriters in Nashville, the two rarely collaborate.

Recently, their schedules permitted them to get together to see what kind of magic could happen in the writing room—or in this case, Brett James' studio barn, located on the outskirts of town.

Leading up to that day, Brett Beavers had been pondering various ideas and angles to bring to the table, one of which he just couldn't shake even weeks after it emerged. "I just remember driving around town with this little idea of 'we may not be around in 100 years, but they're gonna know we were here,'" he recalls. "I knew I was going to be writing with Brett, so I was pretty excited about sharing it with him."

And for multiple reasons—not only did Brett feel that his hook allowed for a sense of rebelliousness within the song, but also because it had a vibe that fit Jason Aldean's sound and style. "I was really wanting to take a swing at getting on Jason's record," he says. "I have never been on one of his albums, and he is one of our genre's biggest superstars. For a songwriter, on any given day, you're try-

ing to land a song on that album."

With that in the back of his mind, he revealed his hook to Brett James, whose approach to songwriting, he explains, often involves having a certain artist in mind. "I think we both were shooting for Jason from the beginning, and it definitely sounded like Jason to me when we started digging into that hook."

The initial idea soon took on a Bonnie-and-Clyde story line of how short and crazy life can be. "We got onto that kind of 'live free, live hard and die young' idea," Brett James says. "We loved that idea of 'let's see what happens and not worry about the consequences.' It's kind of dark, but it's kind of smart."

"He pretty much put the 'Brett James money stamp' on the lyrics in that song," says the other Brett in praise of his co-writer. "He fortunately changed [the lyric] from 100 years to 20 years, which kept it a little bit more immediate. From there, we had a pretty good handle on it."

It worked out nicely for all involved after the demo was made. Jason Aldean heard the song, loved it and recorded it for his *Old*

Boots, New Dirt album. He released it as the project's fourth single, and the rest, as they say, is history.

"I've had some good luck in that barn," Brett James says, smiling. "I've written some other hits in that barn, and I love that me and Brett finally have a hit together now, especially on a song written there."

ALANNA CONAWAY

"GONNA KNOW WE WERE HERE"

JASON ALDEAN

WRITERS:



Brett Beavers



Brett James

THE BRETT EFFECT

Both **BRETT BEAVERS** and **BRETT JAMES** played key roles in launching the careers of two of country music's hottest acts. Brett Beavers was hands-on with Dierks Bentley's first four albums, producing every track as well as co-writing hits "What Was I Thinkin'," "Come a Little Closer," "Every Mile a Memory" and "Long Trip Alone," among others. Meanwhile, Brett James' production credits can be found on Kip Moore's *Up All Night* and *Wild Ones* albums, for which he also co-wrote the title tracks.



The week of Nov. 14, 2015

TOP 25 BILLBOARD ALBUMS

TW	LW	TITLE / ARTIST
1	-	STORYTELLER CARRIE UNDERWOOD
2	-	RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS BLAKE SHELTON
3	1	KILL THE LIGHTS LUKE BRYAN
4	2	TANGLED UP THOMAS RHETT
5	4	CASS COUNTY DON HENLEY
6	5	MONTEVALLO SAM HUNT
7	-	BETWEEN THE PINES (ACOUSTIC MIXTAPE) • SAM HUNT
8	3	COLD BEER CONVERSATION GEORGE STRAIT
9	9	THE OUTSIDERS ERIC CHURCH
10	-	HITS & HYMNS JIMMY FORTUNE
11	6	35 MPH TOWN TOBY KEITH
12	8	THIRTY ONE JANA KRAMER
13	23	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL COUNTRY, VOLUME 8 • VARIOUS ARTISTS
14	-	ANSWER TO NO ONE: THE COLT FORD CLASSICS • COLT FORD
15	28	THE FIRST TIME KELSEA BALLERINI
16	10	JEKYLL + HYDE ZAC BROWN BAND
17	15	PAIN KILLER LITTLE BIG TOWN
18	11	ILLINOIS BRETT ELDRIDGE
19	13	OLD BOOTS, NEW DIRT JASON ALDEAN
20	24	GREATEST HITS: DECADE #1 CARRIE UNDERWOOD
21	12	SOUTHERN DRAWL ALABAMA
22	17	ANYTHING GOES FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
23	19	JUST AS I AM BRANTLEY GILBERT
24	7	CLOSER (EP) KANE BROWN
25	29	TRAVELLER CHRIS STAPLETON

TOP 25 BILLBOARD SINGLES

TW	LW	TITLE / ARTIST
1	2	BREAK UP WITH HIM OLD DOMINION
2	4	LET ME SEE YA GIRL COLE SWINDELL
3	3	ANYTHING GOES FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
4	5	SMOKE BREAK CARRIE UNDERWOOD
5	7	I'M COMIN' OVER CHRIS YOUNG
6	6	NOTHIN' LIKE YOU DAN + SHAY
7	8	GONNA BLAKE SHELTON
8	1	STRIP IT DOWN LUKE BRYAN
9	11	GONNA KNOW WE WERE HERE JASON ALDEAN
10	9	SAVE IT FOR A RAINY DAY KENNY CHESNEY
11	12	BURNING HOUSE CAM
12	13	TOP OF THE WORLD TIM MCGRAW
13	14	STAY A LITTLE LONGER BROTHERS OSBORNE
14	15	ALREADY CALLIN' YOU MINE PARMALEE
15	19	I LOVE THIS LIFE LOCASH
16	16	RUN AWAY WITH YOU BIG & RICH
17	17	I GOT THE BOY JANA KRAMER
18	20	DIE A HAPPY MAN THOMAS RHETT
19	18	DIBS KELSEA BALLERINI
20	22	WE WENT RANDY HOUSER
21	21	COUNTRY NATION BRAD PAISLEY
22	23	BREAK UP IN A SMALL TOWN SAM HUNT
23	24	BACKROAD SONG GRANGER SMITH
24	25	21 HUNTER HAYES
25	26	(THIS AIN'T NO) DRUNK DIAL A THOUSAND HORSES

TOP 10 AMERICANA AIRPLAY

TW	LW	TITLE / ARTIST
1	1	SOMETHING MORE THAN FREE JASON ISBELL
2	3	LOST TIME DAVE ALVIN & PHIL ALVIN
3	4	PANHANDLE RAMBLER JOE ELY
4	5	SERMON ON THE ROCKS JOSH RITTER
5	2	SERVANT OF LOVE PATTY GRIFFIN
6	6	SOUTH BROADWAY ATHLETIC CLUB BOTTLE ROCKETS
7	9	HARD TO PLEASE THE BLACK LILLIES
8	7	GATES OF GOLD LOS LOBOS
9	8	CASS COUNTY DON HENLEY
10	14	THINGS THAT CAN'T BE UNDONE CORB LUND

SOURCE: AMERICANA AIRPLAY CHART

rdio TOP 5 TRENDING COUNTRY SONGS*

TW	TITLE / ARTIST
1	RENEGADE RUNAWAY CARRIE UNDERWOOD
2	RAISED ON IT (ACOUSTIC MIXTAPE) SAM HUNT
3	BREAK UP IN A SMALL TOWN SAM HUNT
4	STRIP IT DOWN LUKE BRYAN
5	LET ME SEE YA GIRL COLE SWINDELL

TOP 5 TRENDING COUNTRY/AMERICANA/SOUTHERN ALBUMS*

TW	TITLE / ARTIST
1	STORYTELLER CARRIE UNDERWOOD
2	BETWEEN THE PINES (ACOUSTIC MIXTAPE) • SAM HUNT
3	RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS BLAKE SHELTON
4	BUY ME A BOAT CHRIS JANSON
5	IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE ALIVE DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS

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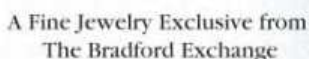


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YES. Please reserve my pendant with the names and birthstones indicated at left. **Limit of 6 total names (max. 10 characters each) and 6 birthstones.**

Signature

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly) _____

Address

City

State

Zip

E-Mail (Optional)

*Plus \$9.98 shipping and service. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

01-19627-001-E08101

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE COUNTRY ARTIST, AND WHY?



My favorite country artist is Terri Clark because I have followed her since she first started and she has a special connection with her fans where she just loves them all and remembers their names and enjoys every moment she has on the stage with them and entertaining them.

JOANNE PASCAL
NASHVILLE

It's Shania Twain because she is beautiful, talented and still rockin' it.

JUDY FRAZIER
SAVANNAH, TENN.



I have a lot of favorites. Overall I would probably have to go with George Strait because he is down-home country and does original country songs. It's not all the lights and whistles and bells, it's just his guitar and him just singing.

KEVIN MASTRIONA
KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Favorite country artist is Shania Twain and the reason is because my husband and I got married to her song "From This Moment."

SHERYL ZIELKE | PEORIA, ILL.



It would be Carrie Underwood because she's just a genuine girl, I feel like. I love all of her songs and I've watched her ever since *American Idol* and I've loved her ever since.

VICTORIA REINHARDT | PADUCAH, KY.





The Star Wars Lightsaber Legacy Lamp

Your Weapon of Choice

For Jedi and Sith alike, the lightsaber is the signature tool that marks a true master of the Force. Now, the lightsabers used by the Skywalker family inspire The Star Wars™ Lightsaber Legacy Lamp, available exclusively from The Bradford Exchange.

The elegant sculptural base presents the lightsabers wielded by two generations of Skywalkers in a legacy of power and heroism. The handles are finished in the gleaming silver and black of the original designs while the signature colored "blades" illuminate above. A custom cloth lampshade features handsome artwork of favorite characters and iconic ships by famed Star Wars™ artist Steve Anderson. A standard lightbulb controlled by a switch provides additional illumination.

Strong demand expected: Order now!

The Star Wars™ Lightsaber Legacy Lamp comes with a 365-day money-back guarantee and is issued in a strictly limited edition. Secure yours now. Quantities going fast! Act now to obtain it in five installments of \$39.99, for a total of \$199.95*. Send no money now. Just return the Reservation Application today!



**1½ Feet
Tall**

Arrives with a
FREE light bulb

**Lightsabers
illuminate!**

Shown smaller
than actual height
of 18 inches high with a
11inch diameter shade.

UL-approved; includes
one standard CFL bulb
for soft illumination. Base
illuminates with LEDs
requiring 3 AAA batteries.



www.bradfordexchange.com/lightsabers

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SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
—HOME DECOR—

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve The Star Wars Lightsaber Legacy Lamp for me as described in this announcement.
Limit: one per order.

Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

01-22355-001-E08191

*Plus \$23.99 shipping and service. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 casting days. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Subject to product availability and order acceptance.

WORDSEARCH

Compiled by John Reiman

DIERKS BENTLEY

G G N F E E L T H A T F I R E J E H P M
Z U N A D R O J R E T H G U A D I F I C
F E N U O Z T L I B R E D N A V V L L K
B V I R E S O L C E L T T I L A E M O C
Q E K S I Z F L C O N G R E S S R H T A
S R N I G S L O O D U O Y Y A S E K J B
O Y I D S B E I D M P H S N D A T A A N
U M H E O I A R J H A A D R S R H M K O
N I T W N G V H O M E M O E A G G I E T
D L I A K W I E D D U C L I A E U T A I
S E S Y N H N U N S E C Y C E U A H N P
O A A S O I L A I R Y H W I H L D E D I
F M W C X T E C L C Y B A V T B D O G T
S E T T L E F O R A S L O W D O W N E I
U M A F R O T O P R Y M E M B E R L O H
M O H F R I T W I F E C A S S I D Y R O
M R W K P O O W H I S K E Y R O W O G L
E Y I A M X D R U N K O N A P L A N E D
R D C H T H O W A M I D O I N C Q E Q O
S O N G W R I T E R P C I H S A K Q A N

AM I THE ONLY ONE
BIG WHITE
BLUEGRASS
CAPITOL RECORDS
COME A LITTLE CLOSER
CONGRESS
DAUGHTER EVIE
DAUGHTER JORDAN
DBTV
DRUNK ON A PLANE
EVERY MILE A MEMORY
FEEL THAT FIRE

FREE AND EASY
HOME
HOW AM I DOIN'
I HOLD ON
JAKE AND GEORGE
LOT OF LEAVIN' LEFT TO DO
MILES AND MUSIC FOR KIDS
MOTORCYCLES
OPRY MEMBER
PHOENIX
PILOT
RISER

SAY YOU DO
SETTLE FOR A SLOWDOWN
SIDEWAYS
SON KNOX
SONGWRITER
SOUNDS OF SUMMER
TIP IT ON BACK
VANDERBILT
WHAT WAS I THINKIN'
WHISKEY ROW
WIFE CASSIDY



Find the words, titles and phrases in this wordsearch challenge submitted by **ANNETTE KERSTETTER** of **Beavertown, Pa.** NOTE—they may appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward or forward. Good luck!

Get your Puzzle Published and

WE WILL PAY YOU

\$25

We need your submissions more than ever! Make up a list of words and phrases about a particular star, topic or theme related to country music. Email a list and recent, clear photo of yourself to **letters@countryweekly.com** and type "Wordsearch" in the subject line or mail to **NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY Wordsearch, 506 2nd Ave. South, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37210.**

If we choose your list to make a Wordsearch puzzle, we'll publish your photo and pay you \$25! Sorry, but submitted photos cannot be returned.

I'm "heels over head" in love with my Perfect Lift Chair™

Our super-comfortable reclining lift chair lets gravity do the work, putting your feet above your heart to improve your circulation and overall well-being.



Complete with battery backup
in case of power outage

Easy-to-use remotes
for massage/heat
and recline/lift

Sit up, lie down —
and anywhere
in between!



It's a fact: circulation issues can cause a variety of dangerous health issues. As we age and become less active, these issues can get worse. Several conditions can lead to poor circulation—the most common causes include obesity, diabetes, heart conditions and arterial problems. The heart has to work harder to circulate blood throughout our bodies, and gravity doesn't help—since the blood has to go "uphill". One of the best ways to alleviate this problem is to elevate your lower extremities, so that your feet are above your heart. Now, there is a reclining lift chair that can put you safely in this position. It's called the Perfect Lift Chair™ and there's no other chair like it.

Whether you use your chair to read, watch TV, eat... or even sleep, comfort is the key. This chair has an overstuffed back and unique seat design that will cradle your body. The wide armrests and footrest

provide better support when sitting or reclined. The fabric is comfortable and durable—plus there are a variety of colors for any décor. It features high and low heat settings and dozens of massage choices. Best of all, it gives you an infinite number of reclining options, from sitting up, lying flat and zero gravity positions. The chair even lifts you up to a position where it's easy to stand up or sit down.

Why spend another day or night suffering from the symptoms of poor circulation?

This chair comes with "White Glove Delivery" and includes a one-year service warranty and our exclusive home trial. If you are not completely satisfied, simply return it within 30 days for a "No Questions Asked" refund of the product purchase price. **Call now!**

Do you suffer from poor circulation?

- Cold, numb or tingling feet or hands
- Throbbing or stinging pain in limbs
- Pain
- Muscle cramps

The Perfect Lift Chair™

Call now toll free for our lowest price.

Please mention code 101686 when ordering.

1-888-604-7280



This lift chair
puts you safely
on your feet!



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FEELING SOCIAL?

Anxiously awaiting that new album from your favorite artist?

Eager to discuss the hot concert you just saw?

Connect with NASH Country Weekly and fellow fans online and join our community!



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"Welcome Christmas"

Teardrop Wreath

*Expertly Hand-crafted
to Look Fresh from
the Forest—Forever!*



The all-new Thomas Kinkadee "Welcome Christmas" Teardrop Wreath premieres our *Always in Bloom®* line of designer wreaths, hand-made from a soft material that rivals nature's own majestic pines, right down to the needle tips.

The contemporary teardrop design is seemingly alive with the vibrant green of fresh-cut boughs, the contrasting red of winter berries, and the flair of hand-tied velvet and sheer golden bows. Interspersed among the evergreens, 30 LED lights illuminate at the touch of a button, and are controlled by a 24-hour timer so your wreath will illuminate at the same time each night. The crowning touch comes courtesy of artist Thomas Kinkadee. Four of his most celebratory holiday visions have been recreated on shatterproof ornaments. Three additional ornaments in deep burgundy balance the wreath design. Truly, this stunning wreath is the last one you will ever need to buy!

An Outstanding Value ...

Order your teardrop wreath today at the affordable \$99.99* issue price, payable in three payments of \$33.33, one due before shipment. Your satisfaction is unconditionally guaranteed, so you risk nothing by ordering now.

www.bradfordexchange.com/20295

Images © 1991-1998 Thomas Kinkadee ©2015 BGE 01-20295-001-B1

LIGHTS UP
with 30 bright
LEDs

Always in
Bloom®



Easy-to-set 5-Hour
Timer Controls
the Lights!

Shown much smaller than
actual size of 32 inches tall.
Requires 3 "AA" batteries
(not included).

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
-HOLIDAYS-

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the Thomas Kinkadee "Welcome Christmas" *Always in Bloom®* Teardrop Wreath for me as described in this announcement.

Limit: one per order.

Please Respond Promptly

Signature _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

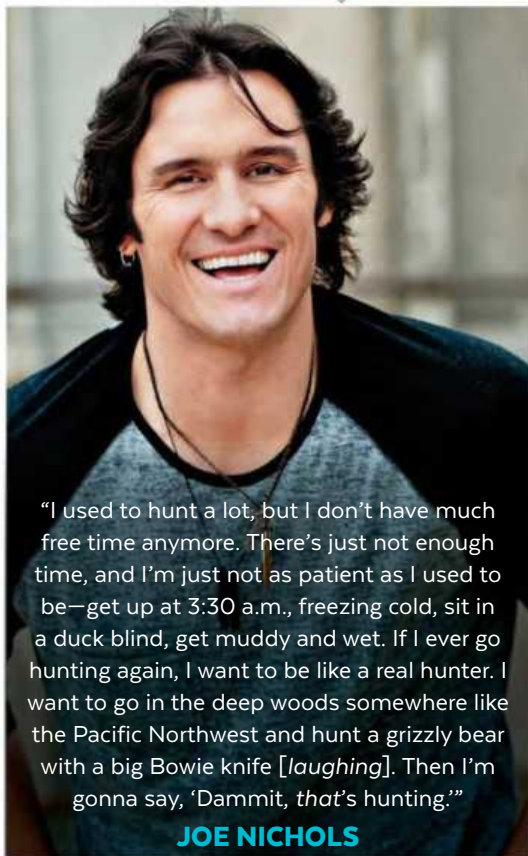
City _____

State _____

Zip _____

*Plus \$14.99 shipping and service. Please allow
4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment.
Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

01-20295-001-E08101



"I used to hunt a lot, but I don't have much free time anymore. There's just not enough time, and I'm just not as patient as I used to be—get up at 3:30 a.m., freezing cold, sit in a duck blind, get muddy and wet. If I ever go hunting again, I want to be like a real hunter. I want to go in the deep woods somewhere like the Pacific Northwest and hunt a grizzly bear with a big Bowie knife [laughing]. Then I'm gonna say, 'Dammit, that's hunting.'"

JOE NICHOLS



"I'M COMIN' OVER"

CHRIS YOUNG

2015

3:17

NO. 5
(CURRENTLY)

?

SONG FACE-OFF



"COME ON OVER"

SHANIA TWAIN

1999

2:55

NO. 6

**BEST COUNTRY
SONG (2000)**

TITLE

ARTIST

YEAR

LENGTH

**BILLBOARD HOT
COUNTRY SONG**

GRAMMY



GOOD BUDDIES

In addition to co-hosting the annual Americana Honors & Awards show and *THE BUDDY & JIM SHOW* on SiriusXM, **JIM LAUDERDALE** and **BUDDY MILLER** are longtime pals. The highly respected singer/songwriters released a collaborative album, *Buddy & Jim*, in 2012. They also teamed up to co-write "Hole in My Head," which appeared on the Dixie Chicks' 1999 album *Fly*.



MADE FOR TV

In addition to his role as Will Lexington on *Nashville*, **CHRIS CARMACK**'s TV credits include appearances on *The O.C.*, *CSI: Miami*, *Smallville*, *Desperate Housewives* and more.

CONSTANT KEITH

KEITH URBAN has won four Grammys, and they've all been in the same category: Best Male Country Vocal Performance, including "You'll Think of Me" (2006), "Stupid Boy" (2008), "Sweet Thing" (2010) and "Til Summer Comes Around" (2011).



Ageless Wonders

In our recent contests for the 10 Most Beautiful Women and 10 Sexiest Men in Country Music, six stars 50 years of age or older made the cut: **SHANIA TWAIN** (50), **ALAN JACKSON** (57), **DWIGHT YOAKAM** (59), **REBA McENTIRE** (60), **GEORGE STRAIT** (63) and **LORETTA LYNN** (83).



A full-page photograph of country music artist Joe Nichols. He is seated on a chrome bar stool, leaning forward and playing a sunburst acoustic guitar. He is wearing a black leather motorcycle jacket, blue denim jeans, and brown leather boots. The background is dark with red and blue stage lights. The overall mood is intimate and focused on the musician.

JN JOE NICHOLS



ROPER
WEAR THE WEST
ROPERUSA.COM

A promotional poster for Chris Young's album 'I'm Comin' Over'. The image features Chris Young, a man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a black V-neck t-shirt and dark jeans. He is standing outdoors, leaning against a light-colored wall, with his right hand in his pocket and his left hand resting on his shoulder. The background shows a modern building with a glass facade and some greenery. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.

AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 13

CHRIS YOUNG

I'M COMIN' OVER

NEW ALBUM
FEATURING THE
SMASH TITLE TRACK
"I'M COMIN' OVER"



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